

# AREA 31 GSR MEETING MINUTES

## MARCH 9, 2021

### Participants: 14

Anne M 2<sup>nd</sup> year Co DCM

Chris K Co DCM

GSR's = 8, Carol R GSR, Laurie B GSR, Gina D GSR, Kerri O GSR, Peg C GSR, Dana S GSR, Paula D GSR, Alisha B GSR

Alt GRS= 2, Bill L Alt GSR, Joe I Alt GSR

Visitors= 2

Sonja P. Area Registrar, Paul Area 31 Delegate

### Opening- Serenity Prayer

Secretary Report: Asked if there were any corrections to the February Minutes. None.

Concept 3 Summarized by Dana Concept 3 *The right of Decision.*

Volunteer to summarize Concept 4 in April, 2021 Peg C.

### Home Group Business:

Bill L from the Holyoke Group which meets Sundays, and Thursdays @ Providence Hospital reported that although the hospital has been sold, their group has been assured that when they are ready to go back to a live meeting they will be welcome to continue meeting in the hospital. They may have to change day, time, or the meeting room. However, they are very glad to not have lost their location. This was also good news to Dana because the Scrambled Eggs Group also meets at Providence Hospital. More information to follow.

Keep both Western MA Intergroup and the Area Webmaster for the Meeting Finder App updated in regard to your home group's virtual &/or brick and mortar location details so they can make sure accurate information is published about how to find and attend your meeting. This information is helpful to treatment centers, correctional facilities, and anyone directing newcomers on how to get to meetings.

Also, they would like to remove any AA meetings that are no longer meeting and may have folded. Contribute to the 7<sup>th</sup> tradition on-line or via Venmo which Chris and Dana said works for each of their home groups.

### Old Business:

All GSR's please attend the Mini Conference on March 27<sup>th</sup>, and the Area Assembly on March 28<sup>th</sup> 2021. This is important because each group has 1 vote. The GSR or Alternate GSR is the 1 vote for their home group.

Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup> they break up into small groups in the morning and will discuss the conference agenda items that were sent out via email. In the afternoon the whole group will come together and given a summary report of the morning discussions. The group will be able to make comments, as well. The discussions are most important so that Paul, our Area Delegate can listen and gather an understanding of how members in our area want him to vote at the conference.

Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup> will be the Area Assembly, which is the Spring Business Meeting. A couple of proposals that will be brought to the Assembly are:

To disband the Area Website Committee;

To discuss possible distribution of the excess funds currently in the Area Treasury;

To possibly establish a set destination of where to donate any contributions that exceed a specific amount beyond what the area has stated in the budget (An example: if the funds go over \$8,000 more than is needed in the projected budget – could donate that money to GSO)

Round up will be a zoom event on May 15, 2021. One of the main sessions at the Round Up will be when Paul, our Area Delegate, gives his report about what happens at the general service conference. The report closes the loop. Members experience everything come full circle when we hear what was discussed during our Area Assembly after GSR's had brought the items to their homegroups and now talked about in the Round-Up Report after Paul has attended the general service conference.

### **DCM Report:**

Stressed the importance of GSR's familiarizing yourself with the Area Website [area31aa.org](http://area31aa.org) It is an amazing resource of *all things AA in Area 31!*

A member of our area attended the Area Committee Meeting to report a very ugly experience from a meeting. Someone was joking about something very disrespectful. The member was asking the Area Committee for guidance on how to help groups be proactive about keeping AA inclusive. Food for thought: a favorite saying that's frequently quoted in AA is, *love and tolerance of others is our code!*  
**"DO WE MEAN THIS?"**

Suggested actions that groups can take for any issues include: to contact GSO at [aa.org](http://aa.org) to receive ideas of what other groups &/or areas have done when they possibly struggled with similar situations. GSO will never tell a group what to do. And, of course, groups are autonomous. But, it can be very helpful to learn from experiences of others. Part of why we send contributions to GSO is for them to provide this service and guidance. Also, GSR's may want to organize a Group Inventory. A Group Inventory is organized for a time separate from the group's regular meeting and all members of the group ought to be encouraged to attend. Especially this year, with all of the changes and stresses that have occurred, this could be an awesome way to discover what the current group conscience is. Our area has many past delegates, who are familiar with facilitating a Group Inventory. If any GSR wants help with putting together a Group Inventory, Anne M, DCM can put you in touch with a few past delegates.

Suggest that GSR's encourage their home group to not donate to the area right now. Best to wait until the area is in a different boat with expenses. Another suggestion groups may wish to consider is to donate directly to the Berkshire Intergroup because that is a part of our Area service structure that is experiencing contribution deficits due to Covid.

Will there be a MA State Convention in 2021? Will this be held in person, via zoom, or hybrid? IF it is going to take place, members will be needed on the MA State Planning Committee!! GSR's are encouraged to take this service opportunity to their homegroup business meeting. Anyone is welcome to attend the zoom meeting on Tuesday April 27<sup>th</sup> when these questions will be answered.

Round Up is Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Round up will be held via Zoom and will be 12 hours long 8:00am – 8:00pm in two breakout rooms. One room will be for the Delegate's Report and other topic meetings and the other room will be for an Alcathon. More information will be available on the area website.

**Visitors:**

**Area Registrar, Sonja P.**, Sonja P. registers home groups to the New York General Service Office. Connects Home groups to the source of information/GSO, New York. She has a difficult task right now in trying to discover what groups are still meeting, if there are new groups that have popped up during Covid time that may continue after this time ends, and if there are groups that have not made it/possibly folded for good. She lights the unlit groups. She connects the groups to the communication network so their members have a voice in our fellowship. Some groups have heard that some churches are not allowing AA back in to hold meetings even after the CDC allows meetings to resume. GSRs have a say at the Conference. Box 459 interesting information. Anonymity has been a topic. Sonja is willing to get you a GSR packet to make this transition a smoother transition. Sonja needs help to know the status of groups in Area 31. Please notify Sonja so she can get Home Groups registered.

**Area 31 Delegate Paul** is preparing for the 2021 general service conference, which will be held on zoom again this year and is going to be expanded back to the weeklong format. There are so many agenda items being presented. It's always an important issue when rewriting things in the AA Big Book. There will be many items that include literature changes. Discussion about Concept 12 refers to selling AA books and literature at cost. AA books shouldn't be given away for free but rather subsidized. Provide additional avenues to submit agenda items, let's get more involved. Pamphlet to reflect tradition 5.

General Service Conference will be April 18<sup>th</sup>- April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

The Round Up, when Paul will present his report after the conference, is Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
8:00am – 8:00pm

When the International Convention was cancelled last year, luckily there was an insurance policy. They received more money than was put down on the International Convention. This is very good news for the GSO treasury.

**Closing** "I Am Responsible" The next District 2 meeting will be held on zoom Monday April 12, 2021 at 7:00pm

Respectfully submitted: Paula D., Secretary for The General Service Meeting  
Will attach the report Paul emailed me.